

Remarks
Senator Kenneth McClintock
Past Chariman, Council of State Governments and Chair of the Government
and Federal Affairs Committee of the Puerto Rico Senate
on H.R. 5010 The District of Columbia and United States Territories
Circulating Quarters Dollar Program Act
before the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy
September 7, 2000

Good afternoon. As authorized by legislation enacted by this subcommittee, the United States Mint temporarily discontinued the use of the traditional design on the reverse of the quarter, or quarter dollar, and replaced it with different commemorative designs for the 50 states which recognize each of the States in the order that they were admitted to the Union.

The legislative initiative before the consideration of this Congressional Subcommittee will create a program that will extend the recognition made to the States of the Union by the "Fifty States Commemorative Coin Act," to other United States jurisdictions. Furthermore, this historic initiative will help implementation of a policy of inclusion capable of symbolizing a faithful picture of the political reality of our Nation and will also help to rectify the oblivion in which some jurisdictions have traditionally been casted.

Issuing commemorative quarters of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas and Puerto Rico, will help recognize the contribution of the United States citizens who reside in these jurisdictions citizens who quite often, for cultural or political reasons feel left out of the national mainstream. As a nunismatic, myself, this bill will add value to the circulating quarter dollar coin program commemorating some of the United States territorial history.

The relationship developed by the presence of the United States on the islands of Puerto Rico for over one hundred years, has generated close cultural, economic and political ties. Puerto Ricans are United States citizens and we have participated in all the military conflicts since 1917. We

have also shared in the tragedies that have shaken the country and the various events that have occurred in the National economy. Going back a few more centuries, the first European to set foot in Florida was Puerto Rico's first Governor Juan Ponce de León, so perhaps we could gloat that a Puerto Rican discovered the US!

Likewise, the abovesaid islands, as well as the District of Columbia, have a rich cultural heritage that deserves to be revealed to the rest of the United States citizens. The issuing of a quarter-dollar coin with a design honoring the history and traditions of each of these jurisdictions, would achieve the purpose of divulging its culture and would propitiate a better understanding that will reinforce the ties that unite all the citizens and nationals of the United States in these different regions, which are all united under the same monetary system.

The Puerto Rico Senate, through its approval of Senate Concurrent Resolution 66, fully supports the enactment of HR 5010 and is available to assist our delegate in Congress, the Honorable Carlos Romero Barceló, in this endeavor.

Hopefully, if and when Puerto Rico's commemorative quarter is minted, it will be shipped to and circulated in Puerto Rico, something that hasn't happened with the new dollar coin, which apparently the Federal Reserve has chosen not to ship to its Cash Depot in San Juan.

Thank you very much, ..

(S. Conc. R. 66)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request the One Hundred and Sixth Congress and the President of the United States to approve an inter-territorial initiative contemplated in H.R. 1029 and S.R. 760 to mint six commemorative quarters of the District of Columbia and Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas, and Puerto Rico, as an extension of the program to mint commemorative quarters of the States of the Union Minting Program; and exhort the Legislature of each of the abovementioned jurisdictions to give their opinion on this matter.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The United States Mint temporarily discontinued the use of the traditional design on the reverse of the quarter, or quarter dollar, and replaced it with different commemorative designs for the 50 states. This will allow it to extend recognition to each of the States in the order that they were admitted to the Union.

Two legislative initiatives have been introduced recently in the Congress of the United States to amend the "Fifty States Commemorative Coin Act," in order to extend as part of the recognition made of the States of the Union, a recognition of other United States jurisdictions. Since it is the interest of the Legislature of Puerto Rico that the United States Mint issue commemorative quarters of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas and Puerto Rico, in recognition of the contribution of the United States citizens who reside in other U. S. jurisdictions, it is necessary to support the approval of H.R. 1029 and S.R. 760. The historic initiative contemplated in these two measures

will allow the implementation of a policy of inclusion capable of symbolizing a faithful picture of the political reality to rectify the oblivion into which the said jurisdictions have traditionally been cast.

The relationship developed by the presence of the United States on the island of Puerto Rico for over one hundred years, has generated close cultural, economic and political ties. Puerto Ricans are United States citizens and we have participated in all the military conflicts since 1917. We have also shared in the tragedies that have shaken the country and the various events that have occurred in the National economy.

Likewise, the abovesaid islands, as well as the District of Columbia, have a rich cultural heritage that deserves to be revealed to the rest of the United States citizens. The issuing of a quarter-dollar coin with a design honoring the history and traditions of each of these jurisdictions, would achieve the purpose of divulging its culture and would propitiate a better understanding that will reinforce the ties that unite all the citizens and nationals of the United States in these different regions, which are all united under the protection of the Great American Nation.

This Concurrent Resolution also has the purpose of summoning the governments of these jurisdictions to join our efforts in this request made in behalf of the United States citizens who reside in said jurisdictions.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.—To request the One Hundred and Sixth Congress and the President of the United States to approve the initiative contemplated in H.R. 1029 and S.R. 760 to mint six commemorative quarter of the District of Columbia and Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas and Puerto Rico, as an extension of the program to mint commemorative quarters of the States of the Union; and to exhort the

Legislature of each of the abovementioned jurisdictions to give their opinion on this matter.

Section 2.—It is hereby directed that this Concurrent Resolution be translated into the English language and remitted on parchment scroll to the members of the Congress of the United States; the President of the United States; the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; the Governors and Legislatures of the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas; and the Mayor and the Municipal Assembly of the District of Columbia.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.